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INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

PONTEFRACT

BATTALION OF VOLUNTEERS;

WITH

PROPER CAUTIONS

for

PERFORMING THE VARIOUS MANCEUVRES LAID

DOWN IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

THOUGH the following pages were wrote entirely for the use of the Pontefract battalion of volunteers, yet as they may fall into other hands, I think it necessary to make some apology for the numberless defects they abound with, both in language, style and indeed in every thing that should recommend a work to the Public. I have wrote the book in great haste; and my object was solely to implant in the mind of every volunteer in the corps, a perfect idea of all the evolutions it contains; and a proper notion of the use and advantage of each manœuvre. My zeal for the service is the only recommendation the book merits. My design is to make myself understood by the most uninformed recruit in the corps. Tautology was unavoidable, and the word, REMEMBER, is given in the book as the word, ATTENTION is used in the field. I little imagined such an undertaking would ever fall to my lot, for notwithstanding I served the whole of the late war in America and the West-Indies, and returned home after near eight years absence, a reduced captain on half pay; I never have been fortunate enough to get employed again. However it has been

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INTRODUCTION.

the means of placing me at the head of a corps of volunteers, that are a credit to the establishment, and whose improvement in discipline, will be the pride of my life. The system of tactics, which I follow, was first introduced by that able officer Sir WILLIAM HOWE, in whose school I imbibed the principles of discipline here recommended, and which I earnestly wish may be adopted by the battalion, with as much enthusiasm as governs my judgment on such a subject. I could have greatly enlarged the size of my book, in writing more fully on the old system, but I have confined myself to as narrow a compass as possible, including every kind of caution necessary in manœuvring by files. In describing the solid square, the paces taken by the sub-divisions when they close, is not the full pace, but only six inches. If I have delivered my sentiments too freely upon the regulated manœuvres, it is not meant to offend any one. I only attack the system. But there is no impropriety in mentioning one strong recommendation to my own plan of discipline, that it was formed and adopted by a veteran officer from long tried experience, on actual service. A warrior who has past his life in camps, and was the particular favourite of the great Wolfe. Amongst the old soldiery, it is only necessary to mention the name of Howe, to associate together every idea that forms a complete officer.

INSTRUCTIONS,

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THE original establishment of two companies, were by my endeavours, and their own zealous and constant attendance, brought to that perfection, in all things necessary for real service; that I was entirely satisfied (in case of necessity, were they called upon) that in those essential points of discipline and evolution, they would acquit themselves in a manner that would do honour to me and themselves.—

The battalion being now augmented to more than twice its former strength, (most of them yet recruits,) will call forth not only my own indefatigable exertions, but also of those officers and non-commissioned officers,

officers, that I have had the honour to render capable of giving me the most able assistance, in this great object of my wishes. The spirited, unwearied zeal and attention, of the two old companies, in my first laborious task, call forth my sincere thanks; and the consequence of that diligent perseverance in daily attending the field, was, that in a few months, they were not surpassed by any old Volunteer Corps, in steadiness under arms, and correctness in exercise. But in evolution, I believe few volunteer corps were in any degree equal to them. I flatter myself that I shall find in the three new companies the like spirit of emulation, which will spur them on, to render themselves in all respects equal in discipline to the old companies; but especially as they are now blended with the volunteers of the first establishment.

It is necessary to remark, that in the summer

summer 1797, the volunteers attended the drill and marched to the field every evening without receiving pay; should this example be followed next summer by the recruits, it would very soon render them completely steady and perfect in their duty; and I will most cheerfully give them my constant attendance and unremitting assistance. On field days they will be paid as usual; in this voluntary drill, I would have them appear in their common clothes.—This season of the year, will almost entirely prevent any great exertions in the field, but if the recruits will attend an evening drill in the Town's-Hall, they may greatly improve themselves, in becoming master of the firelock.—“ It is in consequence of the unfavourable time of the year, that I have thought it would be of service to the battalion, if I could by this means, and their attending to it, make them perfectly acquainted with the plan I

mean to pursue, in rendering them (what will be my pride and glory) a completely disciplined regiment." — I shall particularly endeavour to render myself perfectly understood, by a plain simple style, and as far as possible will avoid all those tortured words of command laid down *in the eighteen manœuvres*. And as the regiment is fully sensible how unwillingly I follow them, and shall never use them but when I am ordered, therefore it will be necessary to state my reasons, and also to contrast my *own* manœuvres with those new regulated ones, which I have taken the liberty to speak so freely about.—But I must not pass by a remark that in the eighteen manœuvres there are some that I have instructed my corps in, and others exactly the same in design, but which I perform in one quarter of the time, without a halt, and with only *two* abrupt words of command. The manœuvres I allude to, and which

which you have often most correctly performed, are marching in line, both to the front and rear and by alternate companies, which I termed *ratoon firing*. The other two are the 15th and 16th manœuvres, which you will do without so many words of command and halts.

You will observe that in all my favoured manœuvres, a marked difference from the eighteen new ones, in this instance; that generally *one short abrupt word* of command explains the *whole manœuvre*. But in the new ones 'tis very seldom that the commanding officer can carry his design into effect, without a variety of cautions and words of command, to render his design capable of being understood. I therefore request your particular attention, when I come to contrast my *own manœuvres* with those eighteen new ones; I will in as plain and simple a manner as I can, endeavour to shew you the design of each manœuvre, and

and leave to your own judgment to decide whether one *short expressive* word of command, is not more instantly comprehended, than a string of teeth breaking words from the commanding officer, and nearly as many from each officer of a company. When I give the word, all is silence until the evolution is completed, but in those new ones, there is a constant cackle from begining to the end. You will also (when master of both my own and the new manœuvres) be able to judge of those done with *one word* of command, and performed with celerity and neatness, to the sleepy (and dangerously) circuitous movements of the others, with all their unmilitary artificial aids. You will soon join me in opinion, that to become a soldier, and to be perfectly at ease in all difficulties that may occur to a battalion in the field (I do not mean the one you may always go to) the new manœuvres must never enter your head. No, it must be

be evident that a battalion completely disciplined in those *only*, will be totally incapable of extricating itself, from the most trifling impediments. But a corps perfectly master of manœuvring by files, can glide into every shape and resume its form, however changed, with almost magical celerity and perfect neatness. You will remember that I am only giving my opinion to yourselves, and not addressing the public, otherwise I would not speak my opinion in such strong terms, but to you I cannot be too open, as on your discipline my character may one day depend. I cannot too strongly impress upon your minds, the superiority you will possess over other volunteer corps, that besides the dull phlegmatic and useless manœuvres which I mean to make you perfect in, (and which they alone are acquainted with,) you will also be masters of every evolution that files can perform, nothing can impede your march with

with ease if in open column of companies, and if impediments occur, you file off by Indian files from right of companies or you advance from the centre of companies by files, or you can advance and retire from the flanks of companies by Indian files, or proper files. In street firing, how easy and graceful do the divisions divide in the centre and lead down the flanks and form again. In a word, ease, grace, and neatness are the features of one mode, and dull, sluggish, artificial precision the marked features of the other. I shall also avoid as much as possible many words of command in the eighteen manœuvres, that are new and strange to an English soldier, but especially any word of French extraction, for I would not contaminate the British tactics with any thing borrowed from so cursed a people.— If I could flatter myself with bringing a battalion of volunteers to perfect discipline, I should act upon an entire different plan from

from what necessity at present obliges me to do. However I do not despair if the corps should continue a year or two longer, to render them equal to most regiments. What I am particularly anxious to attain, is this, that when I march the battalion to the field, instead of an *A, B, C*, lesson, that I may begin to manœuvre them without an officer or soldier knowing what is to follow. The two old companies I frequently manœuvred in this manner. This I call real discipline, that when a battalion is properly told off, they march to the field and without the least knowledge what will be done, they shall be able to perform every kind of evolution that may occur to the commanding officer, without a halt. You know my old companies, that I have sometimes manœuvred you in this manner without a halt for a considerable length of time, indeed until it was highly necessary to give you and myself a respite. This I call

call real discipline, for to be capable of acting so, they must be perfect masters of file marching. I shall ever follow the system of tactics which I learnt under that gallant and able officer Brigadier General HENRY HOPE, the nephew of my ever lamented friend, the late Lord DARLINGTON.—He commanded the first battalion of grenadiers in America, and with such men, such discipline, and so officered, what could resist them? A British army so formed and disciplined, and opposed to an army of French warriors from Italy, headed by the grand BUONAPARTE himself, would no more be able to sustain their charge, than an army of rats would stand that of an army of bulldogs. You know I am particularly anxious to perfect you in charging with regular celerity. Marching and retiring in line and wings is the fashion of the day, and I approve of them, but the favourite impulse of a British soldier is not attended to

to, I mean the CHARGE, the very marrow of British tactics. What I am about to say, would in those times appear incredible, and I should be shy of advancing it, if there were not many left alive who served in the same battalion. I mean the first battalion of grenadiers commanded by Colonel HOPE. So constant and steady was he in the practice of charging, that it scarce ever was omitted, and when they did charge, good God what a sight, the ground seemed to shake under them, and though rapid as a shot, the line was as correct as the present battalions marching in slow time in line. If this was addressed to the public, I could call upon those yet living that could witness it, but you must take it from myself, only remarking that those grenadiers were veterans for years accustomed to such practice. I may have occasion to mention this excellent officer hereafter, who, had he lived at this

time, would have been the pride of the British army and nation. But he was soon cut off.—If I am truly informed, all the volunteer regiments follow no other guide than the eighteen manœuvres; take them out of this horn book and they are quite lost. Besides, I am told that they just know their lesson like an alphabet, and when they march to the field, can only perform their constant task. This will never make them soldiers; as any innovation in their usual lesson will totally disconcert them.—You shall never be so taught whilst I have the honour to be at your head, but shall always be ready for whatever happens.

But before I begin to explain the manœuvres, and the manner in which they are to be performed, I must call the serious attention of every officer, non-commissioned officer, and private volunteer in the

the battalion to one great object; without which, all my attention and unwearied efforts to render them a pattern to all other volunteers corps will be fruitless. It is a small matter I request, yet grant it me in its fullest extent, and I will pledge myself, that a few months will render the character of the Pontefract regiment high in the estimation of military praise.— What I demand is only this, **PERFECT SILENCE, MARKED ATTENTION, and COOL STEADINESS**, in every thing that is done.—If every officer, non-commissioned officer, and private volunteer will zealously endeavour to be perfect in those essential points of discipline, they may be assured every thing that may appear difficult will vanish with such conduct, and in the end will crown their efforts with honour and pleasure to themselves.—This request I expect you will fulfill, from that pride of emulation which ought

ought to fire the soul of every soldier, but more particularly volunteer soldiers. Let me not forget another motive, that I hope will animate the non-commisioned officers and old volunteers, that have been formed by myself alone, and be a spur to the recruits, to repay my labour and attention, by a zealous endeavour on their part to accomplish my wishes.—Recollect that all other corps of volunteers have been drilled and formed by assistance from the line or the militia. But I have had no such help either from the regulars or militia, (unless I may call serjeant Carty an assistant, who did not remember my manœuvres; and who quitted us when the arms had only been a week arrived, and so far from giving me any assistance had nearly ruined the corps by his intrigues and mischievous conduct.) If then I bring you to that degree of steadiness and discipline, which I flatter myself I shall; consider what a

pride

pride I must feel, as also the officers, and non-commissioned officers who will assist me in my plan.

The whole summer is one continued drill of the militia; day by day are they labouring to render them perfect soldiers, and with an experienced adjutant, and able non-commissioned officers they are sure of success. We only go out twice in the week, and the pride of becoming a soldier, is the reward you should look for. Remember my request, attend to it, whenever under arms, and do not fear but with that spirit of emulation which I trust you possess, that we shall equal those that have so many advantages which we never had the enjoyment of. I have now only to repeat, that unless the officers, sergeants, and private volunteers zealously endeavour to second my wishes, by equally feeling with myself for the honour of the regiment, and without

without this spirit of emulation and military pride pervades the whole battalion, vain indeed will all my efforts prove.— But I feel assured that in this wished for zeal I shall not be disappointed in my expectations.

As I wish to be understood by the most uninformed person in the corps, I will make use of such terms as are entirely familiar to them.— And to begin, I must inform them, that a *manœuvre* or *evolution* is the change of position in a body of troops, from one figure to another, rendered necessary, either in action, or for convenience in marching, where unexpected difficulties occur. A battalion that can perform its manœuvres with the greatest celerity (or quickness) and at the same time perfect regularity; will far overmatch a battalion, whose manœuvres are slow, and (if I may so term it) round about in

in the execution of them.—Before an enemy nothing can be more dangerous than changing your front, but as it often becomes an act of necessity, the more rapidly it is performed, the less time is given the enemy to annoy you, and the readier you will be to receive, or attack him in your new position. Any change of front, that exposes for a length of time the flanks of divisions (or companies) must lay them open to the enemies attack, with little hope of rallying. Such I see might occur in several of the eighteen manœuvres; for instance, in the 5th, called wings thrown back, which in fact is only changing the front to the right oblique; and forming on the left division. A battalion of one thousand men would take a considerable time to perform this evolution, for the divisions marching in echelon (rear in front) in slow time, must leave their flanks entirely exposed during the whole tedious march

march. An alert enemy would not let such a tempting advantage pass without making a proper use of it. The 9th manœuvre stands nearly in the same predicament, and the 10th is in every respect liable to the same danger. What need of such a manœuvre as the 9th, when wheeling out a centre company and changing the front to either flank by one word of command, which effects the changing the front like pulling the trigger of a firelock. This is the only mode of changing the front of a battalion in face of an enemy, that any old officer would hazard. You do not require me to point out the advantage of filing off by Indian files, as I observe with pleasure you constantly do it without any order, when marching to the field in bad weather. The dirty roads render you very expert in performing this evolution, and I am sure you find the advantage of it.—In the following manœuvres

vres I have carefully considered (when the new ones occur,) how to execute them perfectly in figure according to order, but at the same time with greater celerity and fewer words of command. For any unnecessary word of command must retard the evolution. I also beg the officers, sergeants, and private volunteers will always REMEMBER, that in wheeling divisions, right or left, it is always my order, that it should be done by a rapid run up. In breaking into open column, when wheeling backwards, it must be done in slow time. *Remember* if the right is in front in open column that the LEFT is the pivot of divisions. For to wheel into line you must wheel to the left. On the contrary, REMEMBER, when marching in open column, the *left* in front, that the right of division is the pivot. You must wheel to the **RIGHT** to form line.— REMEMBER in all wheelings forward,

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that the eyes are cast to the wheeling flank until the wheel is finished, and then cast to the pivot flank. REMEMBER that the rapid movement decreases from the wheeling flank to the reverse one, REMEMBER I never halt a division when wheeling on the march in open column, but give the word FORWARD.

The manœuvres of a battalion at a review, commence in forming close columns. The use of the close column is to compress a large body in a small compass. They are generally made use of, in attacking an enemy's post by surprise, the small space of ground they take up renders their approach less difficult, and in the attack, the column expands itself into line, or otherwise as circumstances may occur.—There is another use of a close column, but not such a column as is to be found in the eighteen manœuvres, I mean the column by files from

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the centre of battalion. This manœuvre is very useful, both in advancing and retreating where straight roads or bridges are to be passed. I shall mention the manner of forming it in the direction for forming and reducing columns.

First Manœuvre.

The battalion will form close column in rear of right division.

THIS caution being given, the remaining divisions instantly *face to the right*, and the leading file of each division disengages itself by closing to the right two paces. The officers commanding divisions will on the word **QUICK MARCH** lead the divisions close in with each other, keeping the distance of a pace, betwixt his

his front, and the rear of the division before him. — When the leading file arrives in rear of the left file of the standing division, the officer steps out, and lets the division march on, until the left file reaches that of the standing division, the officer then gives the word **FRONT**, **DRESS** (remember the feet keep the step all the time, though they gain no ground) each succeeding division acts in the like manner until the column is formed, when on the word **HALT**, all are steady and silent. The commanding officer then gives the word, **FORM GRAND DIVISIONS** which is a caution; and then, **LEFT DIVISIONS**, **LEFT FACE**, **QUICK MARCH**. Each officer leads out his division, and forms and dresses it by the right one, by the word **FRONT**, **RIGHT DRESS**, **HALT**. The commanding officer then gives the word, **GRAND DIVISIONS TAKE CLOSE ORDER QUICK MARCH**,

MARCH, HALT. He then will take ground to the left (not the right) by the word, **COLUMN, LEFT FACE, QUICK MARCH.** Now attend to what follows.—When the column arrives at the ground where the left company stood, the commanding officer will give the word, **COLUMN, RIGHT, TURN.** Instantly the whole turn square to the right; and on the word, **FORWARD,** step out, the officers paying strict attention to their divisions dressing well. When the commanding officer has marched the column about fifty yards, he will halt, and caution the column to form line on the rear grand division, which stands fast. **REMAINING GRAND DIVISIONS, RIGHT FACE, REDUCE COLUMN, QUICK MARCH.** As soon as the rear grand division, is disengaged from the others, the commanding officer of the grand division will give the word, **GRAND DIVISION FOR.**

FORWARD and march up to the ground which the leading grand division covered, and then **HALT** and **DRESS** his **GRAND DIVISION** to the given points. The commanding officer will **HALT** and **FRONT**, the other grand divisions as they reach their proper ground. The officers commanding each grand division will on seeing the one formed, perfectly steady, give the word, **GRAND DIVISION FORWARD**, when he comes up with the standing division he will give the word by the **LEFT DRESS**. Each grand division having marched up and formed line upon the left grand division, the commanding officer will give the word, **HALT**. Immediately **EYES RIGHT**, by the whole battalion.—The battalion now covers exactly the same space of ground, it was first formed on, except being fifty yards advanced in a parallel line. Had the column taken ground to the right it would have

have changed its station when formed in line.—This is the 1st of the eighteen manœuvres. I have strictly adhered to the figure and design of the manœuvre, but have omitted many little unnecessary things, that only prolonged the time of performing the evolution without any improvement in the figure. I will now give you my reason for wishing the feet to keep the step when formed in close column, until the word HALT is given. The men of the standing division, (and the succeeding ones if halted when they front) would not be half so steady, but would let their heads and eyes wander about; the step occupies their attention, which if possible should never lie dormant.

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Second Manœuvre,

Is forming close column, in front of left division.

I need not describe it, as it is exactly done like the one just mentioned; only recollect, that when formed, it will take ground to the **RIGHT**, and march on until it arrives at the ground which the right division covered, when the commanding officer will give the word, **COLUMN, LEFT TURN**, on which every man turns square to the left, and on the word **FORWARD** step out, having marched fifty yards the commanding officer will **HALT** the column, and form line upon the leading division. When the remaining grand divisions clear the front one, the commanding officer halts them, and the

officer

officer commanding each grand division will then march his grand division by the word, grand division FORWARD. By the **RIGHT DRESS, HALT.** I shall now form a close column upon the *right centre* division facing to the rear. Remember the battalion covers exactly the same space of ground it was first formed upon, except being one hundred yards advanced in a parallel line.—By marching this column to the rear one hundred yards, and then forming line (in the way that shall be mentioned,) the battalion will stand upon the very same ground it first covered.

When the division is formed in a close column, the officer commanding has called his division a *grand division* from the fact that it covers nearly the same ground it first occupied.

GRAND DIVISION. (unit making up the division) The number of men in each division is to be determined by the number of men in each company.

TELEGRAM. His people you know are to be sent to him.

Third Manoeuvre.

Battalion will form close column on right centre the division, facing to the rear on Right centre division **RIGHT FACE**, by files to the right countermarch, **QUICK MARCH**. The officer will front the division.—Remaining divisions, **OUTWARDS, FACE**.—Divisions, by files, to the left countermarch, **QUICK MARCH**. Each officer will front his division as he arrives at his station, and the commanding officer, seeing the column complete, divisions well dressed, and pivots correct, will give the word (remember the column is not halted, and that the men keep the step by marking time.) **FORWARD**, they step out, and the column will march till it arrives at the ground it first covered, when the commanding officer will **HALT** it,

and

and reduce it in the following manner. The commanding officer halts the column. He then gives the word, COLUMN, LEFT FACE.—LEFT COMPANIES or divisions, QUICK MARCH, when they clear the flank of the right division, the officers halt them.—The commanding officer then gives the word, DIVISIONS BY FILES TO THE LEFT COUNTERMARCH, QUICK MARCH, HALT. The column is now to the front. The column will form line on the right centre division. RIGHT CENTRE DIVISION STANDS FAST. REMAINING DIVISIONS, OUTWARDS FACE, QUICK MARCH. The right centre division when clear of the others, is marched forward by its officer to the ground, which the right division covered, and there halted. The other divisions when clear of each others flanks, are fronted, dressed, and marched up to form by the right centre division.

division.—The line now stands upon its first ground.—Those are the three columns in the new manœuvres.—The difference of forming those columns from what I call my own, is now scarcely perceptible.—The quick step will be invariably used, in all manœuvres and marching, except in passing the General.—The manner of my forming a close column upon a right centre division, either to the front or rear, is different from the one above, and the propriety which should be adopted in real necessity I will leave to military men to judge.—It is done thus.—The battalion will form close column upon right centre division, facing to the rear.—Upon this evanition, the right centre division will go to the right about.—The wings face INWARDS.—Head files disengage themselves two paces to the right.—On the word QUICK MARCH, the divisions of the right wing, lead out to the rear of the right centre division,

vision, and those of the ~~left~~ wing will lead out in front of the right centre division, as it now stands facing to the rear.—When the column is reduced, on the word RE-
DUCE COLUMN, the right centre division comes to the right about, the remaining divisions face outwards, and instantly (being on the march) lead out. When the right centre division is clear in its front, the officer will give the word FORWARD, and make rapid march the ground, which the right division covered, when he will MARK TIME and direct his division. The other divisions will form by it as they gain their proper station. In advancing in close column upon the right centre division, there is only this difference, that the right centre division stands fast, instead of going to the right about, and the other divisions act as above directed, only that they come to their proper front, and the right division leads.—

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On reducing the column, the same mode will be followed as in the above, except that the right centre division, marks time, until the other divisions clear its front, and then the officer gives the word FORWARD, and marches up to the ground that the right division covered, and then MARKS TIME and DRESSES, until the line being formed, the word HALT is given.— The marked difference of my columns from those in the regulated manœuvres, is this (and I beg you will attend to it) in forming a close column to the right or to the left, I generally do it by DIVISIONS; but if I meant the column to have a greater front, I should form a close column of GRAND DIVISIONS from line, and not increase its front after being formed, as that is losing time; for it is as easy to form a close column of grand divisions, as a close column of divisions.— In the next place, the word HALT is never

never given, but when the line is formed. The men will always keep the step (or rather mark time) and the word *forward*, only is used for the column to step out. Therefore all unnecessary delays in completing the manœuvre are avoided, and only one word of command is necessary to form or reduce a column. The word *front* and *dress* is all that the officers make use of.—To advance in column from the centre of battalion by files, the four centre files stand fast, and the wings face inwards. But I will give the word at length. ~~MR OT T W O R K E R T OT~~ Now of course when the word is given, ~~MR OT T W O R K E R T OT~~ Battalion, from your centre, by files advance in column. The four centre files stand fast, the wings face inwards. On the word **QUICK MARCH**, the four centre files step out, and the wings wheel right and left by files, square upon the ground where the first files wheeled.—On the

the word **REDUCE COLUMN**, the leading files *mark time* and the wings form up by files. — In retiring from the centre of battalion by files. On the word, **BATTALION FROM YOUR CENTRE, BY FILES RETREAT IN COLUMN**. The four centre files go to the right about, and the wings face inwards, on the word, **QUICK MARCH**, the four centre files lead out, and the wings wheel inwards by files, but take care not to fly off, but wheel square upon the same ground that the first files left. On the word, **TO THE FRONT FORM BATTALION**, the four centre files come to the right about; and the wings front right and left by files as they come up, that is, those of the right wing, come to the right about, and those of the left wing to the left about.

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Fourth Manœuvre.

The fourth manœuvre, is called change of position in open column.

IT is merely this:—The commanding officer will give the word BATTALION, BY DIVISIONS ON YOUR LEFT, BACKWARDS WHEEL, QUICK MARCH.—You are now in open column, and previous to the column's march, two camp colours are placed in an oblique direction. The word QUICK MARCH being given the column moves on, and when the first division arrives at the nearest colour, the officer gives the word, *right shoulders forward*, which makes a half wheel to the left. The two succeeding divisions do the same, when the column is halted. The remaining divisions are faced

to the RIGHT, and marched on until their left files cover the pivot files of the standing divisions; when the commanding officer HALTS and FRONTS them.—

The column then receives the word, COLUMN, BY DIVISIONS TO THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE QUICK MARCH. I shall make little observation upon this manœuvre, as there is no harm in marching a battalion in open column, and taking a new line. Only I would leave the camp colours with the quarter master sergeant. And as for right shoulders forward, I should wish them to be left with the camp colours also. Two drum boys could run out in a moment and mark the new line of march, and a sergeant stepping out would mark the extent of the wheel to the left.—There is something very unmilitary in those artificial aids of camp colours, and sergeants marking the ground for divisions to form upon

upon. Before an enemy how would it be possible to act in such a manner, and it would always favour those manœuvres, that volunteers may find absolutely necessary in case of being called into actual service. But I am merely giving my private opinion, and only wish to point out to you what I think either useless or defective in the regulated manœuvres, which I shall most laboriously endeavour to make you perfect in.

The manœuvre I have just described might be performed in a manner far more soldier-like, and with a better effect. I will mention it as follows. But before I contrast my manœuvre with the one above, mentioned, I should observe, that instead of going through the whole eighteen regulated manœuvres I would in pointing out the difference betwixt my own and them, merely refer you to the book that contains them,

them, this would save me much trouble; but only the officers and sergeants may have taken the trouble to peruse the book, therefore to make the whole corps understand the eighteen manœuvres, it is necessary I should go through each of them.— Instead of performing the 4th manœuvre as above, I would do it in the following manner.— **BATTALION—FROM THE CENTRE OF DIVISIONS, ADVANCE FILES, QUICK MARCH.**—

Having fixed upon two objects to change the line of march into a new direction I would then give the word, **DIVISIONS, BY FILES TO THE RIGHT WHEEL**, this brings the battalion into a line of files. When the leading file arrives at the first object which marks the new line, I should give the word, **BATTALION BY FILES TO THE LEFT WHEEL**, the officer leading the battalion, observing the two objects that form the new direction, will

wheel

wheel the head file, and lead on to the other, which will throw the battalion into the same oblique direction as the 4th manœuvre. — When the last file has wheeled, I should give the word, **FORM DIVISIONS.** They now are in open columns in the new direction, I should then **HALT** them, and when I saw pivots correct, &c. I would give the word, **COLUMN, BY DIVISION TO THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.**

Fifth Manœuvre,

Wings thrown back, when the head is quitted to and left open

LEFT DIVISION, ON YOUR LEFT, FOUR PACES BACKWARDS WHEEL. This word being given, a sergeant steps back four paces, for the company to dress by, **QUICK MARCH, HALT.**

HALT. The commanding officer then gives the word, **REMAINING DIVISIONS, RIGHT ABOUT FACE.—DIVISIONS TO THE RIGHT TWO PACES, WHEEL.** A sergeant from each division steps two paces forwards and marks the wheeling distance, **QUICK MARCH.** Now attend to me. The left division is the one to form line upon, and fronts obliquely to the right. The remaining divisions are now wheeled into what is called **ECHELON** with the rear in front, and they are to march in this figure and form line upon the left division. It was generally done in slow time, but many of the best informed officers finding the time of performing it (with a strong battalion) so very tedious, have adopted the quick march; this will be my mode also, as follows.

ECHELON, ON LEFT DIVISION FORM LINE.—QUICK MARCH.—

On

On the second division reaching the standing one, the officer gives the word, **LEFT SHOULDER FORWARD**, and marches two paces beyond the standing one, and then gives the word, **FRONT, FORWARD, LEFT DRESS**, (remember the standing division and the rest as they come up and form; mark time.) The remaining divisions do the same in succession, and when the last has fronted, and is dressed the commanding officer will give the word, **HALT**.—Having given my opinion of this manœuvre before, I have nothing to add, but my wishes of seeing it performed, with neatness and soldier-like regularity.

This is a more safe way of changing the front to the right, and is done as follows. **BATTALION, BY FILES, FROM THE RIGHT OF DIVISIONS, TO THE RIGHT CHANGE YOUR FRONT**, instantly the *flank file*, of the *right division* turns *square to the right*

right. On the word, **QUICK MARCH**, the divisions spring forward by files, from the right, and rapidly run up, and form, by the right division, which has dressed by its flank file.—To form it obliquely to the right, the flank file would only make a half face to the right, and the divisions on running up would dress by it, which would change the front obliquely to the right. I need not point out, that in changing the front thus, to the right, (or obliquely to the right) by files from right of divisions, that it is done in one tenth part of the time, required in marching in echelon in slow time, and performing the same manœuvre with a different name.—The 10th manœuvre has the same substitute, only the front is changed to the left, from the left of divisions by files.

Sixth Manœuvre.

Solid Square.

— THOUGH this manœuvre is now laid aside by the guards and most other corps, yet being one of the eighteen regulated manœuvres I will explain it, *but not as in the book, but in a far easier and more useful manner.*

The battalion will form close column in rear of the right (or left) division.—BATTALION, IN REAR OF RIGHT DIVISION FORM CLOSE COLUMN, the remaining divisions face to the right, and leading files disengage themselves two paces to the right. QUICK MARCH. When the column is formed, the commanding officer will give this caution. *First and fifth divisions stand fast.*

G

REMAIN-

REMAINING DIVISIONS, TAKE CLOSE ORDER, MARCH; upon which they immediately *lock up*, for in fact they were at what is termed close order before. SUB-DIVISIONS, FOUR PACES OUTWARDS CLOSE.—MARCH, HALT, FRONT. The square is now formed, and the officers and sergeants fill up the small vacancies. On the word, PREPARE FOR ATTACK, the front rank comes down to the old manner of front rank kneeling; and slope their firelocks towards the enemy, sergeants charging their spears. The square may now commence independant firing as directed.—To reduce it give this caution, take care to reduce square.

REDUCE SQUARE, upon which the rear face comes to the right about, and the right and left faces of the square to their proper front, the commanding officer then gives

gives the word, **SUB-DIVISIONS**, **FOUR PACES INWARDS CLOSE**, **MARCH**. He will then give the word, *divisions take your proper distance*, 1st and 5th stand fast, **march**. — Being halted and dressed by their officers, the divisions are now again in close column. Take care to reduce column.—**REDUCE COLUMN**, all except the head division, face to the left, and upon the word **QUICK MARCH**, they lead out, and when the second division has cleared the left flank of the 1st or right division, the officer will give the word **FRONT, RIGHT DRESS**, The other divisions will do the same as they come up. When the line is formed the commanding officer will give the word **HALT**.

I owe the change of this manœuvre from that in the book to the politeness of Captain J. Burton, (adjutant in the 4th

West York regiment,) whose great civility and attention to myself and Major SAVILLE, I shall always remember with esteem.

Seventh Manoeuvre.

Countermarch by files from and on its centre.

BATTALION, FROM YOUR CENTRE, BY FILES TO THE REAR, CHANGE YOUR FRONT. The wings instantly face inwards. **WINGS, TO THE RIGHT TWO PACES CLOSE—MARCH.** **WINGS QUICK MARCH**, the right wing doubles round to the left by files, and the left wing doubles round by files also to the left; when both wings have wheeled up, they stand facing inwards; the commanding officer then

then gives the word FRONT.—It is just as proper or better instead of doubling round as above, for the files to front as they come up from the right wing, and to come to the left about by files from the left wing.—This I think a very pretty manœuvre, and will mention one of my own as a fellow to it, which has a very fine effect with a strong battalion. It is done as follows.

BATTALION,—FROM YOUR FLANKS, BY FILES TO THE RIGHT CHANGE YOUR FRONT, on which both wings face *outwards*. On the word **QUICK MARCH**, the right wing countermarches to the *rear* and the left wing to the *front*, until the leading files meet and dress, when both wings wheel by files to the *left*, (this movement with a strong battalion assumes a figure called a *true lovers knot*,) in which manner

ther the battalion soon winds itself into its new position; but the commanding officer must be very attentive to give the word **FRONT**, before the right files of the left wing, and left files of the right, make their wheel otherwise he will leave a great space open in the centre of the battalion.—To change the front from the flanks of battalion by files to the left, it is only reversing the countermarch and wheelings.—Having thus gone through the 7th manœuvre, and given a companion to it, I will now describe two ways of bringing the battalion to its former front. One method is as follows.

BATTALION, BY DIVISIONS TO THE RIGHT WHEEL, QUICK MARCH. They now are in open column; the commanding officer gives the word to the leading division, **DIVISION, RIGHT FACE, BY FILES TO THE**

**THE LEFT COUNTERMARCH, &
QUICK MARCH.** The officer commanding the division, when his left file has passed the flank of the second division, gives the word, **LEFT TURN, FORWARD.** The remaining divisions march on, and when they reach the ground from which the 1st division countermarched, they will successively do the same. In this manner the column marches on until the 1st division has reached its old ground, when the commanding officer will give the word **HALT.** All being steady and pivots correct, he will then give the word, **COLUMN, BY DIVISIONS, TO THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.** They now cover the same ground, and have the same front as they had prior to the 7th manœuvre taking place.

The other method is as follows:—**BATTALION, BY DIVISIONS TO THE RIGHT**

RIGHT WHEEL, QUICK MARCH.

The commanding officer will then order the 1st division to face to the right, and by files to the right wheel. The remaining divisions will march on and follow the same method when they arrive on the ground of the 1st division, which will soon wind the battalion into a line of files.—

When the leading file arrives at its old ground, the commanding officer will FRONT the battalion, which now stands on the same ground and with the same front as before.

COLUMN BY DIVISIONS.
THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.
RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE.

RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE.

Eighth Manœuvre.*March in open column.*

The battalion is cautioned to form open column in rear of left division, which stands fast. **REMAINING DIVISIONS, TO THE LEFT WHEEL, QUICK MARCH.** They are halted by their officers.—**Divisions TO THE LEFT FACE, QUICK MARCH.** The officers lead their divisions to cover the standing one, for which purpose a sergeant of a division steps out and marks the pivot. They are then **FRONTED.** As soon as the third division has taken its station in column, the word **COLUMN, QUICK MARCH,** will be given. The remaining divisions follow and cover in succession.—**The column of divisions marching now in**

open order, at their proper wheeling distance, will be ordered to form column of sub-divisions, upon which, the right sub-divisions mark time, and when the left sub-divisions clear their flank, they oblique to the left, until they cover the left sub-divisions. On the commanding officer giving the word **FORM DIVISIONS**, the right sub-divisions oblique to the right, the left mark time, until the divisions are formed and dressed; and on the word forward they step out. The commanding officer will then give the word **HALT**—pivots being corrected and all steady, the word **COLUMN BY DIVISIONS TO THE RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE** will be given. **QUICK MARCH**, completes this manœuvre.

One of the great faults that I find in several of the eighteen regulated manœuvres is that strange unmilitary appearance, where

where you see one part of the battalion in full march, and the other half halted in the execution of one manœuvre. The above one I think might better be done as follows.

The battalion will form open column in rear of left division—left division stands fast—*remaining divisions face to the left*—On the word, **QUICK MARCH**, the left division will only *step short*, the remaining ones, will disengage their head files two paces to the left, (when they *first face* to the left,) and on the word, *quick march*, they will lead out taking care to preserve their wheeling distance in open column, before they *front* to the leading division. When the right division has *fronted*, the commanding officer will give the word, **FORWARD**, on which the whole step out well together. In diminishing and increasing the front of the column, the same method

method will be pursued as in the 8th manœuvre, and it will be halted and wheeled by divisions to the right into line in the same manner.—I must own that this appears to me a more military way of performing the manœuvre than as it is laid down in the book.

Ninth Manœuvre.

ECHELON CHANGE OF POSITION,

Or in other words, changing the front ab-
solutely left upon the right centre
division.

BATTALION, BY DIVISIONS
ON YOUR RIGHT, BACKWARDS
WHEEL, (or this,—battalion, by divi-
sions to the left wheel,) QUICK MARCH.
As an oblique line is wanted, the right
centre

centre division will be ordered as follows.

RIGHT & CENTRE DIVISION, ON YOUR LEFT FOUR PACES BACKWARDS WHEEL. A sergeant steps from the right and marks four paces backwards for the division to dress by. **QUICK MARCH.** **REMAINING DIVISIONS, ON YOUR LEFT SIX PACES BACKWARDS WHEEL.** A sergeant from the right of each division steps back six paces for the divisions to dress by.

QUICK MARCH.—LEFT WING, RIGHT ABOUT FACE. *The battalion will march in echelon and form line on right centre division.* **QUICK MARCH.** The right wing, having its proper front, has only to march on and the officers commanding divisions to front and dress their divisions as they come up. The left wing (or as it is strangely worded, *leading divisions*,) marches in echelon with its rear in front, and when the left

left wing

centre

centre division reaches the flank of the standing one, the word **RIGHT SHOULDERS FORWARD** is given by the officer, and when two paces in the rear, he will give the word **FRONT, FORWARD, DRESS.** The other divisions will act in the same manner, the line being formed the commanding officer will give the word **HALT.**

This is called the 9th manœuvre, and is nothing more than changing the front obliquely to the left on its centre. Indeed I observe throughout all the eighteen regulated manœuvres, that the word of command for performing them, might just as well be given in the Hebrew language, for any information it gives the soldier, of the real manœuvre he is about to execute.

I will now shew you, what I do not hesitate to name, a far superior manner of changing the front upon the centre, and

indeed

indeed what only any well informed or experienced officer would venture to perform in face of an enemy.—As I gave my opinion of the last manœuvre when I mentioned the 5th and 10th manœuvres, it is unnecessary to say another word. I shall therefore give you my method of changing the front upon the centre as follows.—The battalion will change its front upon a centre division to the left.—Left centre division will wheel to the left by its officers word of command.

BATTALION, UPON YOUR CENTRE, TO THE LEFT CHANGE YOUR FRONT. On which word of command, the left wing goes to the right about. On the word, QUICK MARCH, the right wing *springs* to the left in as rapid a manner as possible, and the left wing in like manner *springs* to the other flank and comes to the right about instantly;
 dressing

tredding to the centre, — This is an old American manœuvre, and was the only manner in which the grenadier battalions changed their front. It is for celerity, far beyond any other method of changing a front; and in action no time should be lost in such matters. The advantages it possesses over any other manœuvre of the same design, are so apparent that I am sure a recruit of a month's standing will perceive it. — We now come to the 10th manœuvre, which is called, *a new line taken up by the echelon movement*. To be sure it is so; but according to the old plain manner of giving a word of command, such as to inform both officer and soldier what he was about to do, I should give it in this manner. The battalion will change its front to the left in echelon, and form line upon left division. This caution would truly let them know, what was about to be executed by the commanding officer.

Tenth Manoeuvre.

A new line taken up by the echelon movement.

LEFT DIVISION, TO THE LEFT FOUR PACES, WHEEL, (a sergeant steps out and marks the distance) QUICK MARCH. REMAINING DIVISIONS, TWO PACES TO THE LEFT WHEEL. (Sergeants from the divisions step out two paces and mark the distance.) QUICK MARCH. *The battalion will march in echelon and form line upon left division—QUICK MARCH.* As the divisions come up to the standing one, the officers will give the word RIGHT SHOULDERS FORWARD, LEFT DRESS. When the right division has come up and dressed, the commanding officer will give the word HALT.

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I have said enough of this manœuvre in another place. Instead of doing it as above I should prefer this, (which will be done in one tenth part of the time, supposing agreeable to the regulations for those manœuvres, it is done in slow time)—

BATTALION—FROM THE LEFT OF DIVISIONS, BY FILES TO THE LEFT, CHANGE YOUR FRONT.

Upon the word, **QUICK MARCH**, the divisions *spring* out from the left, and *rapidly* form up by files, dressing to the left, till the word, **HALT**. Eyes then right. This is done in the same rapid manner as wheeling upon a centre division, the officers leading divisions, in their *run up* must be very attentive to preserve their wheeling distance, or otherwise the files will crush inwards and bulge the line; great steadiness and attention in those measuring of wheelings, is absolutely necessary, and officers and sergeants should accustom themselves

selves to span with their eye the ground
that their division will cover
and then form a ~~square~~ line.

Eleventh Manœuvre.

to ask the Change of position.

The battalion will receive the following words of command:—BATTALION, RIGHT FACE, QUICK MARCH.—On the word, form open column of divisions, you have only to do, what you have been long taught by me; for right hand files step short and the others run up to the left. This is done exactly in the same manner, as when you advance from the right of divisions by files, which on the word form battalion, the divisions spring up to the left, and form to the right by files.—On the division being formed in

open

open column, the officers change to the pivot flank on the left. The column will then be halted, and wheeled by divisions to the left into line.

I have no remark to make upon this manœuvre as it is done upon the plan of my own manœuvres; and in short we are now coming to those things that you are well acquainted with.

Twelfth Manœuvre.

Retreat in line.

ON THIS you are well versed in, and I have only to beg you will be attentive in stepping out well together; the centre and especially the officer that leads the battalion, must be careful of not bulging out, he must see the flank of each wing in a line

a line with himself. After marching fifty yards the battalion will *front*, and then retire by alternate divisions, which I termed **RATTOON FIRING**, so we called it in the West-Indies.—The right companies (or divisions) will go to the right about (after firing) with recovered arms, and march to the rear with the king's colour, a sergeant is advanced six paces to lead the divisions. The greatest attention is required by the officers commanding divisions, to keep their proper distance, and without great care, this manœuvre, which is a very good one, would assume the most clumsy, uncouth appearance possible. After marching fifty yards they will be fronted, and they ought correctly to cover the chasms they left in the battalion. The left divisions will retire in like manner, and march through the intervals to the rear as the right ones did: After twice retiring the lines will be formed

ed by the left divisions fronting when they pass the intervals two paces; the word **FORWARD, RIGHT DRESS,** will be given by the officers of the left divisions. I never remember seeing this manœuvre made use of in the field; but that of retiring by wings I once saw practised in a masterly style by a regiment in which I served, under an old and experienced soldier that is lately dead. The army was retreating, in open column by half companies, and our regiment covered the retreat. We had two field pieces, and the commanding officer ordered one to each wing. The officer of artillery was a gallant active young man, (his name was O'HARA, and he was killed in the campaign following) who well executed the orders of Colonel CAUSSEAU. The right wing threw in its fire, and the gun did the like. Immediately the wing went to the right about, and with the gun dashed on for about a hundred

hundred yards, then fronted, and primed and loaded, the gun being at the same time unlimbered, and loaded.—The left wing kept its station quietly (notwithstanding the enemies fire) until the right wing had fronted and made ready. It then threw in its fire, the gun doing the same, and on going to the right about scampered away, passing the right wing, and forming about a hundred yards beyond it. The enemy would have hung very heavy on the rear, but for this excellent disposition, which completely kept him in check. Had some of the born colonels of the present day a duty of this kind to go through, I am afraid the rank of field officer would not inspire them with military skill and experience. (I know no situation more critical than an army retreating with an inexperienced officer to cover its rear, if he has no resources in himself from knowledge of tactics, or experience from service.

service, what can be expected from such a person but calamity. None know the character of a commanding officer better than his own people. A brave and steady officer inspires them with confidence and assurance that whatever service they go upon, he will acquit himself with dexterity and ability. But on the other hand, if they have no opinion of the talents, courage, or ability of their commander, they will only march with half a soul. In the instance above, the safety of a whole army might be sacrificed, by an inexperienced young man having so important a charge as securing the rear of an army. The enemy pressing upon him, and having no resource in his own mind, he becomes confused; and one blunder is followed by half a dozen, till like a second PHAETON his faculties desert him, his people begin to think for themselves, and too often on such occasions a panic is communicated from rear to front of the whole

whole army. Such events have happened more than once in the present war to many regiments, and all from the above cause. In the west-Indies a well planned expedition failed with great loss, when the object was within their grasp, and part of the troops about to enter the enemy's work.— The old gallant regiment that I have been speaking of, was cut off this war on the continent. The officer commanding it was a brave young man, yet from the account I had of the event, from an old comrade (who was wounded very ill in the business) I think the misfortune might have been avoided. I understood from him, that the bank or dike on which the regiment was marching, was sufficiently broad to have formed an open column of divisions. I would have told them off for street firing, and the two guns should have been placed one with the rear division, the other with the third division. When the

firing commenced, the division that fired would face outwards from its centre and lead down the flanks to the front, the gun would also lead down the flanks till it arrived at the *sixth* division, when it would prepare for action. The other would arrive in front with the third division and gives its fire at the same time, after which it would lead down the flanks and halt three divisions from the other gun. This if it really could have been done, would I should suppose have saved the regiment. But it is both unjust and impertinent to decide upon events that have taken place, to which you may be a perfect stranger but by report. I never yet heard of a battle that was fought, even though victorious, but that there was always a great deal more might have been done; or such and such means would have prevented the defeat.

It is now high time to return to our busi-
ness

lines, for the remaining manœuvres are such as you have practised often, except the 13th and 14th which we are just come to. Remember when marching in echelon that the officers and sergeants cannot be too attentive, in exactly covering the pivots, and preserving the oblique figure during the march.

Thirteenth Manœuvre.

March to a flank in echelon.

**BATTALION, BY DIVISIONS,
FOUR PACES TO THE RIGHT
WHEEL.—(sergeant of a division steps
out from the left and marks the wheeling
distance;) QUICK MARCH.** Officers
halt and dress their divisions.

The battalion will march in echelon to a flank,

a flank, QUICK MARCH. The whole moves on two hundred yards, when the commanding officer will give the word, WHEEL BACK INTO LINE. On the word, FORWARD, the battalion steps well out and dresses to the centre. But officers must carefully attend, that their divisions do not crush inwards, which will certainly be the case if not attended to. I mean while we are yet so full of recruits, for I do not fear that any such cautions will in a few months be necessary.—

The battalion will march fifty or a hundred yards and then HALT.—I have so far given a substitute for each *new* manœuvre, that you are strangers to; but here I have none to offer. All I can say is, that the march in echelon, does not appear to me an improvement in our tactics, as I think the open column far more military; and as to any advantage in forming line, it is idle to talk of it. For I will answer for it,

it, that a battalion marching in open column of divisions, and another battalion in echelon, (both right in front) shall each receive the signal to form line at the same moment. The battalion in open column of divisions, on the signal being given will wheel up to the left with a run (as is my standing order, on all occasions forward, except passing the general) and the other shall wheel backwards into line. I have not the least hesitation in saying that the battalion, which rapidly wheels into line from open column of divisions, will be formed and dressed as soon or sooner than the other. Besides marching in echelon is a distorted figure, and takes away the appearance of natural ease, which a soldier should always possess in every situation.

Fourteenth Manœuvre.

Hollow Square.

Battalion will form hollow square.----
 The two centre divisions stand fast. **R.E.-**
MAINING DIVISIONS, RIGHT
 about face, (or they may be wheeled be-
 fore they go to the right about,) **R.E.-**
MAINING DIVISIONS, FOUR PA-
CES RIGHT AND LEFT WHEEL.
 (The sergeants from the left rear flanks of
 divisions step out and mark the wheeling
 distance; and the sergeants from the right
 rear flanks do the same. Why I am obli-
 ged so to term them, is this, that the right
 of divisions with rear in front is the left;
 and on the other hand the left of divisions
 in that state, is the right.) **QUICK**
MARCH. FORM SQUARE, QUICK
MARCH. The divisions march in eche-
 lon,

Jot, and as they come up the officers give the word (according to which wing they belong) **RIGHT AND LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARDS.—FRONT.**

When the two flank divisions have received the word right and left shoulders forwards, a sergeant from each *inward* flank, steps out and marks the wheeling distance of each, that will form the rear face. The senior officer of the two companies, gives the word, **REAR DIVISIONS, IN, WARDS WHEEL**, on completing the wheel they come to the right about, and form the rear face. On the word **HALT**, the square is ready for attack or to march. But I must inform you for what use or purpose the square is intended.

If a body of infantry were under the necessity of marching over a flat open country, and at the same time knowing the enemy to be very strong in cavalry, to secure both

both themselves and their baggage, it would be necessary to make such a disposition as would be most likely to ensure their safety, against an attack from the enemy either with cavalry, infantry or both.—In such an emergency no disposition appears more proper than the square; but in such cases, the oblong square is generally used. The baggage is always within the square. After having described the hollow square agreeable to the new method, I will shew you two old ways of forming the hollow square, and the way of forming the oblong square. But before I proceed, I cannot help remarking what appears to me extremely singular, in the instructions for the hollow square in the regulated manœuvres, and totally (in my opinion) disarms it of its strength and powers. When it marches it reduces the square, and becomes a line of march in open column and is no longer a square. This is so extremely absurd as requires

requires no comment from me. When the square is halted, each face fronts the country, and when the commanding officer wishes to march the square, he ought to give a caution which face will lead. For instance. *The square will march by the front face, upon which caution, the right, and left faces, turn to the leading face, and the rear face, comes to the right about.* On the word, **QUICK MARCH.** the square steps out. If there are guns (or cannon, for some of the recruits perhaps do not know that cannon are generally called guns.) with the battalion they are disposed of, in what manner the commanding officer thinks will best answer his wishes, in securing himself and annoying the enemy. On the word, **halt,** the four faces instantly front the country. The old ways of forming the hollow square, I much prefer.—One is done from line, and the other marching in open column. Suppose from line—**B A T T A L I O N,**

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TAKE

TAKE CARE TO FORM HOLLOW SQUARE. The two centre divisions stand fast, but on the word, **FORM SQUARE**, the wings face inwards to the two centre divisions, and on the word, **QUICK MARCH**, the two centre divisions step out, the remaining divisions wheel by files, those of the right wing—right, those of the left wing—left,—taking care that each file wheels square upon the ground that the two first files wheeled from. When the two leading files of the flank divisions reach the ground that the files wheeled upon, they instead of wheeling *march* forward until they meet, and on being fronted, form the rear face. On the word, **halt** (for the square is marching) the four faces front the country. You will observe that in forming the square by this method, there is no break whatever in the battalion, for when the two centre divisions march forward, the 2nd and 3rd of the right

right wing wheel by files and form the **RIGHT FACE**, while the 6th and 7th wheeling to the left by files form the **LEFT FACE**; the 1st and 8th closing together in the rear, form the **REAR FACE**, and the 4th and 5th form the **FRONT FACE**.—The hollow square of the new manœuvre is reduced by the *rear face* wheeling (almost *right* and *left about*). The remaining divisions four pass forward into echelon, and in that manner they march and form line upon the two centre divisions.—The hollow square which I have been describing, is reduced in this manner, **REDUCE SQUARE**, on which word the rear divisions face *outwards*, the remaining divisions of the right and left faces, are faced to the right and left. The two centre divisions stand fast. On the word **QUICK MARCH**, the right and left faces of the square, form up by files, and front as they come up. The two

two divisions of the rear face, march obliquely, right and left, and *front* when they gain their station.—The other way of forming the hollow square, is in this manner. Suppose the battalion is marching in open column of eight divisions, right in front. The commanding officer finds it necessary to form a hollow square, he will give the word, **FORM GRAND DIVISIONS**, the right divisions will *mark time*; and the left divisions will oblique to the left. *Front* and *dress* by the right divisions. The commanding officer then gives the word, **CLOSE TO HALF DISTANCE**. Upon which the grand divisions close up to half wheeling distance. *Take care to form square*, and on the word **FORM SQUARE**, the front and rear grand divisions keep marching on, whilst the two centre grand divisions wheel *right* and *left* by *divisions*, which is done by a *run up*, and instantly facing to the leading grand

grand division. The square is now formed and is marching. On the word, HALT, the four faces front the country. The square is reduced on the march in the manner following. The square having received the word, BY THE FRONT FACE, QUICK MARCH, moves on, and when the commanding officer means to reduce it, he gives the caution, TAKE CARE REDUCE SQUARE, then on the word, REDUCE SQUARE, the front and rear face keep marching on, the divisions of the right and left face, wheel inwards by files; and on meeting, FRONT. They are now in column of grand divisions, and as it is more convenient to wheel into line by divisions, the commanding officer will give the word, *grand divisions take proper distance*. Which being done, he will give the word, FORM DIVISIONS. Upon which right divisions march on and left divisions oblique to the right, front and cover,

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The commanding officer may wheel them into line on the march, by merely giving the word, **COLUMN BY DIVISIONS LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.** Or he may halt the column, dress pivots and then wheel into line.—The *oblong square* is formed in the manner above, with this difference. The battalion is marching in open column of eight *divisions*. *Column take care to form oblong square*, this is a caution only; on the word **FORM OBLONG SQUARE**, the front and rear divisions keep marching on. The remaining divisions divide in their centre by sub-divisions and wheel up with a *run*, right and left, facing instantly to the leading division.—The oblong square is reduced in the same manner, by the sub-divisions wheeling inwards by files and fronting.—The column is then wheeled into line by divisions to the left either marching, or from a halt. In forming square in the manner

manner I have given, (as a contrast to the one in the regulated manœuvres) you will observe in forming the first hollow square, *one word of command* is all that is necessary. **FORM HOLLOW SQUARE, QUICK MARCH**, after which all is done in perfect silence, without a single break in the whole manœuvre. And the other two methods of forming square on the march in open column are both convenient and expeditious. — We will now conclude, with a few observations upon the four last manœuvres, which in fact, you have long practised, with a small alteration in the manner of filing, as mentioned in the 15th and 16th; I will first state them as laid down in the instructions; and then point out the decided superiority of doing them in our manner.

Fifteenth Manœuvre.

Retiring in line and filing to the rear.

The battalion receives the caution that it will retire, on which the directing sergeants go to the right about and march six paces beyond the rear rank and halt.—
BATTALION, RIGHT ABOUT FACE, QUICK MARCH. After the battalion has retired about a hundred yards, it receives the caution, to retire by files from the *proper right* of divisions.—
At the words of command, PASS DIVISIONS BY FILES, the officers commanding them turn quickly to the left with their leading file, the rest following in succession. Heads of divisions must attend carefully in dressing well, and keeping their wheeling distance. The commanding officer orders the whole to
HALT

HALT, and FRONT. The column is wheeled into line by the words, **COLUMN BY DIVISIONS TO THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.** I shall now describe my method.

The battalion will retire in line. (The sergeants directing the march will do, as abovementioned) **RIGHT ABOUT, FACE, QUICK MARCH.** When the battalion has retired a hundred yards, it will receive the word, **FROM THE PROPER RIGHT OF DIVISIONS, RETREAT FILES,** instantly each division turns to the left, and the officers commanding them with their leading file, wheel square to the right, and lead out to the rear. When the commanding officer means to form line to its proper front, he will only give simply this word of command, **TO THE FRONT FORM BATTALION.** Upon which the leading file of each division comes to the **RIGHT ABOUT**

ABOUT, and the remaining files double round them, and dress to the right as they come up. In this manner the line is formed in the most easy and regular manner possible; and all that laboured stiffness, and unvaried sameness of wheeling into line from open column is avoided.

Sixteenth Manceuvre.

Advancing in line, filing and charging to the front.

THE caution being given, that the battalion will advance in lines. On the word QUICK MARCH, they step out. Having marched thirty or sixty yards, the battalion is HALTED. The commanding officer gives a caution, *for the battalion to file from the right of divisions, and afterwards*

wards the words of command, **PASS TO THE FRONT, QUICK MARCH.**—The officers face to the right and pass to the front. The commanding officer then **HALTS, and FRONTS THEM.** After dressing the pivots the commanding officer will give the word, **COLUMN, BY DIVISIONS TO THE RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE,—QUICK MARCH.**

I shall now contrast my manner of doing the same manœuvre. As for charging to the front, I have not yet been able to discover when the charge is made. Now attend and observe with what ease and military neatness I will perform this evolution.—The battalion will advance in line, (being given as a caution,) on the word, **QUICK MARCH**, the battalion steps out, having marched fifty yards, it will receive the word of command, (without halting)

ing) **FROM THE RIGHT OF DIVISIONS ADVANCE FILES.** Instantly each division turns to the right and the leading files wheel square to the left, leading out to the front. When the commanding officer means to form line, he will only give one word, (without halting) **FORM BATTALION**, On which word, the *leading files* mark time and the rest in succession form up to the **RIGHT**. Then comes for the *first time* the word, **HALT**. The line is formed, *eyes right*, and all steady.

I shall now pass over the other two, as they will constantly occur on every field day, advancing and retiring by line and by wings will so frequently be practised, that it would only waste time to dwell upon them. I have now gone through the whole eighteen regulated manœuvres; and given a contrast for each, (except marching to a flank in echelon, and I have given my opinion that marching in open column has

a better

a better effect.) in short I will not hesitate to say, that the eighteen regulated manœuvres, shew a poverty of invention, and in the execution of them (agreeable to the orders in the book) render the appearance of the troops, *heavy, dull and sleepy*. Which is not the characteristic feature of a British soldier, but entirely the reverse. Our nation has not the skipping monkey-like tricks of the French barbarians. But *manly activity* is the general habit of our countrymen. In what part of the world are the natives so well put together, or so formed for feats of strength and activity as the British. I never saw or heard of any that were equal to them. I have seen huge gigantic German battalions, that on the grand parade at new York over topped our fellows head and shoulders. But I would have run round them with our lads; and as for marching with us, they were not capable of the fatigue which our men endured.

They

They were great huge creatures, with narrow backs, and clumsy legs and thighs. For such men I would recommend the eighteen regulated manœuvres. But (independent of their defects and numberless faults,) to chain down the manly active limbs of Britons, to those heavy sluggish movements; is as preposterous as harnessing race horses to a brewer's dray.——As I have given a substitute for all the eighteen regulated manœuvres (except the two last, which are the same as we practise) I will not puzzle or bewilder your memory with many more evolutions; but will lay down a few general observations for a sure guide to you, in all manœuvres done by files. The number would be endless that may be formed from files, but only attend to the *cautions* that I will point out as *absolutely necessary* in file manœuvring, and if you never lose sight of those cautions, you can not go wrong.—When I tell the battalion off,

off, I am obliged to act according to the strength of the parade. You know we always are formed two deep (though occasionally I form you three deep, and four deep) and when the battalion parades very strong I should tell them off into the following classes.—*Four grand divisions, eight divisions, and sixteen sections.*—The next thing is to tell off the pivots of *divisions*, and pivots of *sections*. Centre files of *grand divisions*, center files of *divisions* (and when eight file strong, center files of *sections*) and centre files of *battalion*.—Now let me request you will always keep in mind what follows—REMEMBER the *pivot of divisions*, is always the *right centre file* of *grand divisions*,—REMEMBER the *pivot of sections*, is the *right centre file* of *divisions*.—REMEMBER when you advance from the *right of divisions* by files, on the word **FORM BATTALION**, the leading files **MARK TIME**, and

and the divisions form up to the **RIGHT** by files. **REMEMBER** when advancing from the *left* of divisions by files, on the word form battalion, the leading files *mark time*, and the divisions form up to the **LEFT BY FILES**. **REMEMBER** when the battalion retires from the *right* of divisions by files, that on the word, **TO THE FRONT FORM BATTALION**, the leading files *always* come to the **RIGHT ABOUT**.—**REMEMBER**, when the battalion retires from the *left* of divisions by files, on the word, **TO THE FRONT FORM BATTALION**, the leading files come *always* to the **LEFT ABOUT**.—**REMEMBER** in advancing from the right or left of divisions by Indian files, that it is always done by filing off *front man, rear man*. The rear rank man always covers his file leader, **ATTEND TO THIS** and you cannot get wrong.—In forming battalion it is done in the same manner

manner as by proper files. REMEMBER, in retiring from the right or left of of divisions by Indian files, it is still done in the same manner; FRONT, REAR, *front, rear*, in succession. In forming battalion to the front, the same rule is observed as in retiring by proper files.—REMEMBER in advancing from the centre of divisions by files, that the divisions on the word being given FROM THE CENTRE OF DIVISIONS ADVANCE FILES, FACE INWARDS, to the centre file, which stands fast. On the word QUICK MARCH, (attend now) the two men in the centre step out, and are followed by their *rear rank men*, on which the next two *front rank men* (from the right and left,) wheel square up and are followed by their *rear rank men*, and so in succession, two *front rank* and then two *rear rank men*. Take care you keep in mind, what I have said before,

that the rear rank man (in advancing) must always cover his front rank man; if he does not, he is sure to be wrong, and will throw the whole division into confusion. But in retiring from the centre of battalion or division, by files, then REMEMBER, it is the reverse, (Indian files excepted) for the *rear files* lead, and *front files* cover, as I have mentioned in describing the retiring of a column by files. — I gave you instructions in a former part, regarding *pivots* of a *column* on march. I shall now point out the utility of breaking a battalion into files. For instance suppose the battalion was marching in line, and a space of ground (necessary to pass) was a thicket or a morass, the most convenient method of getting through them, would be in filing from the right of divisions (or sections) by Indian files. The same course would be pursued in retiring when such impediments occurred. — Suppose I was marching in a wood,

a wood, by files from the right of divisions, and wanted on passing it, to gain ground, and change my front to the left. After clearing the wood, I should give the word **DIVISIONS, LEFT TURN**, (upon which the files should instantly turn square to the left) **FORWARD**; and on the word to the **LEFT FORM BATTALION**, the leading division marks time, and the rest march obliquely to the right, and front; dressing to the left as they come up. If on the contrary I wanted under such circumstances, to gain ground to the right, I should advance the divisions from the left by files, and on clearing the wood, give the word, **DIVISIONS RIGHT TURN, FORWARD**, (which is merely given to render the stepping together correct) and when I had gained the ground to the right which I wanted, I should change my front to the right thus, **TO THE RIGHT FORM BATTALION**,
upon

upon which the right (or leading division marks time,) and the remaining divisions march obliquely to the left, and front as they come up, dressing to the right.—On the other hand, if the battalion was marching in ground that rendered it necessary to advance by files from the right or left of divisions, and on clearing such impediments, meant to form line, to the front, it is only giving the word, **FORM BATTALION**, and the files if from the right form up to the right, and if from the left they form up to the left. But if it is necessary to gain ground to either flank suppose the left. The divisions having lead out from the right, the word **LEFT TURN** and **FORWARD** is given. On reaching the desired ground, and meaning to resume your former front; the word, **COLUMN BY DIVIONS TO THE RIGHT WHEEL INTO LINE**, brings them to that front.—The same method,
only

(only reversing the words of command,) would do, if gaining ground to the right after leading out from the left of divisions by files.—The word then would be, **RIGHT TURN, FORWARD, then COLUMN, BY DIVISIONS TO THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE.**

I shall now draw to a conclusion, with a manœuvre, that no volunteer corps especially, should be ignorant of, I mean *street firing*, advancing and retiring.— There are two ways of performing it according to the breadth of the streets in which you are engaged. The battalion being ordered on such service, would march to the town in open column of eight companies, or sixteen sections, and being told off in centre files, on arriving at the place necessary to begin firing, the leading division (or section) on the beating of the preparative, would receive the word from its officer,

DIVI-

DIVISION, (or section) READY, PRESENT, FIRE, instantly the men *recover their arms, face outwards from the centre, and march down the flanks of the column.*

On gaining the rear, the leading files from the right come **RIGHT ABOUT**, and from the left, **LEFT ABOUT**, which brings the centre files together. They then **PRIME AND LOAD.** In the mean time, while the first division (or section) is thus employed, the second, followed by the remaining ones, marches forward a double wheeling distance, and then throws in its fire, divides in the centre and on **QUICK MARCH**, from its officer, leads down the flanks as the first did. So on in succession do the remaining divisions (or sections) till the first division again arrives in front. — — —

One thing must be observed, that the whole column is in almost constant motion after the firing commences; and the divisions, after leading down the flanks, and forming; before

before they prime and load should march up to their wheeling distance, with the division before them. — This is one method of street firing advancing, and by far the best; but if the streets should be very narrow, so as to render it difficult to retire by the flanks, then this will do. — The preparative being beat, the officer of the first division (or section) fires, and instantly the two centre files break out, the front rank men in front of their right and left hand men; and their rear rank men, in rear of their right and left hand men. The next division (followed by all the rest) leads out from its centre by files; forms; fires; and the two centre files breaking out, the third division leads through them and acts in the same manner. — The first part of the general puts an end to the firing. In retreating in street firing, there is only this trifling difference from the first method. As soon as the first division fires, and on dividing

dividing in the centre and leading down the flanks, the second division (or section) keeps its ground, and when fired, divides and leads down the flanks as the first division did. In this manner the remaining divisions act, always firing from the ground they stand upon, until the whole having fired, the first division is again in front.— I am much surprised that this most useful and necessary manœuvre is not more attended to by volunteer regiments, instead of the many trifling things which they give up their time to

That most excellent officer Brigadier HENRY HOPE, was a perfect master of tactics, and his system was entirely upon a plan of his own, widely different from any to be found in military books. It was upon a great scale indeed (when compared to the present mode) that he acted.—The battalions of grenadiers were composed of veterans,

rans, therefore all of them were perfect in every branch of discipline that a soldier is taught. What our Colonel intended (I mean General HOPE) was to make us all fit for commanders, by enlarging our ideas of military tactics, and to accustom the battalion to evolutions (I like this term better than manœuvre which smells of French extraction) that would occur to an army in action. When the battalion was about to march, not a word was spoke,—every eye was fixed upon the Colonel (who had his orderly drum behind him) and to whatever company he attached himself, the rest took the evolution from that company which received the word from the Colonel. (not loud but privately.) In this manner we used to march for miles. When marching in line, all the drums and fises beat and played the **GRENAIDIERS MARCH**, the only one we ever beat. Frequently a detachment of two, three or four compa-

nies marched from us, and received orders where to take post: which generally was in the woods, from whence they attacked and charged us; which often was very entertaining as we never knew where the attack would commence, and in charging we often met in such eagerness, that I have seen the Colonel out of breath, and with laughing, scarce able to give the word, *recover arms.* He was formed to command armies, and happy would it have been for this country had he lived at this time. But he is gone and most of those that he commended, but I never will forget him or his gallant fellows so long as I live.

As this little tract, was never meant to be swelled out by extracts from other military books, giving details of all kinds of duty &c. &c. but intended entirely for your service, in laying down such methods of evolution as I think will really render you

you expert soldiers. If you carefully study this little book, and make yourselves masters of its contents, you will never be at a loss, on any occasion whatever. The regulated eighteen manœuvres must be followed agreeable to orders, yet keep in mind, that they can never make you soldiers; and that in diligently performing them, you are merely acting a particular part, required of you. The marching in quick time in echelon will greatly improve the sleepy appearance of that evolution.— In speaking of the echelon, I must remind you, that I expressed in the begining, an abhorrence of every thing that was French, or derived from French, and that all those words of command in the eighteen manœuvres of French extraction I would avoid. So indeed I have, except this cursed echelon, (which is French for a ladder) and I cannot find any way of avoiding it. However you may depend upon it, that I will

will never use either the name, or the manœuvre, but when I am abliged to it.— Most of our terms in fortification are from the French, which is chiefly owing to the general partiality of all Europe to that language; and also that in the long war-like reign of LOUIS XIV. some of the best engineers in the world were Frenchmen, and who are looked upon as the founders of that science.— But I am proud in being an Englishman, and with more reason thank God, then that vain French author, who used to thank heaven that he was a Frenchman. Had he been now alive, surely he would have thought otherwise; indeed if I must speak my real sentiments, I would wish to see our children reared up with a greater abhorrence of a Frenchman than of the devil himself, and I do not think, odd as it may appear, that this would be going too far. The incredible scenes of wickedness and cruelty of which
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the French have been guilty in the course of this horrid war, must if possible, have covered with blushes of shame and regret, all the devils in hell,—the most infamous and subtle demon in those regions, cannot pretend to rival in wickedness those outcasts of the Human race. Besides abhorrence, I would also have our children reared up with the same contempt for them, that the old English ever entertained. Always keeping in mind how inferior they are to us in real courage and generosity. At the same time do not let us rob them of one superiority which they possess over the whole world, I mean in lying, bragging, intriguing, in hypocrisy, treachery, impudence, and all other vices that are yet unknown to the rest of mankind.—But I beg your pardon for this digression; though I do not think you will be the worse for attending to it, and thinking of those hell-hounds the French

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as I do. I am sure you will be the better christians for so doing.—I will now resume my proper thread of discourse, upon your improvement in military tactics.— Unaccustomed to writing any thing of the kind, I have hastily thrown together what ideas I have formed on the subject. And particularly, I find most books upon the subject, very defective in small matters highly necessary for every soldier to be informed of.—I think you can scarcely mistake my cautions and instructions, as I have most zealously laboured to be plain and clear in all my terms, and to clothe every thing in the most common placed phrases that are in use. One or two remarks more and I have done.

Ever since I had the honour to command you, all my wishes were centered, in endeavouring to render you complete soldiers in every respect. You remember how unwilling

ling in the first stage of the busines, you were to be clothed as you now are. You wanted the same fancy dress that most volunteers have adopted. I was obstinate, and the consequence is, that your regiments are the admiration of all that see you. You are clothed exactly like the sergeants of the 37th regiment, and whenever you are seen by strangers they always suppose you to be troops of the line. Having before expressed my expectations that you will zealously exert yourselves in forwarding my endeavours to make you soldiers, I cannot help saying what in strict justice I am bound to acknowledge, that no battalion in the land can exceed you in the respectful manner, in which you conduct yourselves to your officers, it is truly soldier-like and praise-worthy. And believe me, if you were not worthy of my attention in all respects, I should never have given myself the least trouble about you, but on the

the contrary, I have the greatest pleasure in labouring to improve you as I always find you eagerly endeavouring to meet my wishes by your care and attention. Another thing is somewhat singular; that I will venture to challenge all the volunteer corps in England (that for your numbers) there is not to be found in any other regiment so many strapping grenadiers, or so many handsome lads. I have known most of the old regiments in the army, and never saw any that could equal you, for such advantages in proportion to numbers.

Before I finish, let me call to your recollection, a circumstance highly deserving of your attention. What do you think could induce the noble family of the SAVILLE'S, to give you the preference to other corps of volunteers in the neighbourhood. Nothing but your respectful soldier-like demeanour to your officers, and the mutual

tual esteem and regard that both officers and privates entertained for each other.— If all the volunteer battalions are united in one common spirit of friendship for one another as ours is, (and I sincerely wish it may be so) what may not be expected from them, if called upon to meet the common enemy. Our motto is for *our King and Constitution*, and the loyal sentiment has taken root in the heart of every Pontefract volunteer. Was there one that had a different opinion, I know you so well, that such a character would not long disgrace your colours; that spirit of unanimity and friendship which is so conspicuous in our regiment, I hope will ever be its character. What a pleasure it was to me the other day, when the battalion was so nobly treated by the EARL OF MEXBOROUGH, to see you in that state of jovial intoxication, all like brothers, without quarrel or uproar. That was a proof of real

real discipline; but I would not wish you often to be put to such a trial, for your cloathing on such occasions is sure to carry marks of your conviviality.

Impressed with sentiments of real regard and attachment to you, nothing would give me greater pleasure (if opportunity should occur) than having the honour of seeing the lads of my own teaching march under my own eye against those accurst French barbarians. I have little doubt, but your conduct would on such an occasion crown you with glory and elate with joy and pride the heart of your faithful comrade and commander,

Teesdale Cockell,

Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Pontefract Volunteers, and Lieut. Colonel in the Army.

ENTERED AT STATIONER'S HALL
